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Selected Speeches and News Releases

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Statement

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

by Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter, Nov. 20.

Jim Cason today asked the President to withdraw his nomination for the post of assistant secretary of agriculture for natural resources and environment. Withdrawal of this nomination is a great disappointment. He is an outstanding individual, and would have made an equally outstanding assistant secretary. The lobbying effort against him was both misguided and unfair. Mr. Cason has a brilliant career ahead of him; regrettably, it will not include the position for which he was nominated. That is a significant loss to the nation.

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News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

WATKINS APPOINTED TO USDA FOOD AND CONSUMER POST

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced the appointment of Birge Swift Watkins as deputy assistant secretary for food and consumer services.

Watkins has been an assistant to the administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service since 1989.

In announcing the new appointment, Yeutter said, "Birge Watkins' management background and his Washington experience make a valuable combination which will serve the department well."

In his new position, Watkins will be deputy to Assistant Secretary Catherine Ann Bertini, overseeing USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, Human Nutrition Service, and Office of Consumer Affairs. The three agencies, staffed by some 2,400 employees, manage USDA's food stamp and child nutrition programs and disseminate and monitor information on the nation's food and nutrition needs.

From 1985-1988, Watkins was deputy assistant director of the Office of International Training at the Agency for International Development. From 1983-1985, he served as assistant director of the President's Task Force on International Private Enterprise.

Watkins was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Mich. He received a master of public administration degree from Harvard in 1989, a master of business administration from the London Business School in 1981, and a bachelor of arts degree from Alma College, Alma, Mich., in 1971.

Watkins and his family live in Washington, D.C.

Sally Michael (202) 447-4623

#

1989 HARD RED WINTER WHEAT HAS HIGHER PROTEIN, INCREASED FOREIGN MATERIAL

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17—The 1989 crop of Hard Red Winter (HRW) wheat has higher moisture and protein content than in 1988, according to the preliminary quality report released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service.

The report also found notably lower levels of shrunk and broken kernels, but an increase in foreign material and total damaged kernels.

The report is based on the FGIS annual summary of randomly selected samples of all official inspections performed on new-crop HRW during the first four weeks following the start of local harvests throughout the country.

The average quality of these selected samples is indicative of the quality of all HRW officially inspected during the period. This preliminary summary of the 1989 HRW crop survey included 4,119 samples.

The preliminary findings will be finalized in the 1989 New Crop Quality Report and released in the spring of 1990. Similar preliminary reports for White, Hard Red Spring, and Durum wheat will be issued as the information becomes available.

For a copy of the preliminary report, write to FGIS, USDA, Rm. 0632-S, P.O. Box 96454, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454; or fax request to (202) 447-4628.

Allen Atwood (202) 475-3367

#

NATURAL CHEMICAL IN STRAWBERRIES MAY DECREASE RISK OF CANCER

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20—U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists are working to increase an organic acid in strawberries that medical studies show inhibits the start of cancer caused by some chemicals.

A purified, commercially made version of the acid has been used by medical researchers in cancer studies of rats.

“We’ve known for some time that strawberry roots, leaves and fruit contain organic ellagic acid. We’re now determining the genetics of the acid to find out how it’s inherited so we can breed plants for higher

levels,” said John L. Maas, a plant pathologist for USDA’s Agricultural Research Service.

Maas tested 40 strawberry varieties and found “considerable amounts of ellagic acid.” He estimated that there would be about an ounce of ellagic acid in 25 pounds of strawberries.

“Right now, we don’t know what dietary intake of ellagic acid is needed to be effective. We know that there is a significant amount of ellagic acid in a strawberry per gram of tissue, but there’s no way yet to know how much would be needed to produce the beneficial results,” Maas said.

“It’s likely that the natural acid found in fruits could be effective against certain chemical carcinogens,” said Dr. Gary Stoner, Department of Pathology of the Medical College of Ohio, who has been studying the compound since 1984. He and Maas have been working on ellagic acid at the request of the North American Strawberry Growers Association.

At the ARS Fruit Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., Maas and colleagues also are testing several varieties of apples for their ellagic acid content. He said the compound is also found in blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, cranberries and grapes and in various nuts, including Brazil nuts and cashews. In its natural form in fruits, ellagic acid is bound to glucose and may protect plants against microbial infections. Its principal function is unknown, Maas said.

Stoner said this acid “prevents procarcinogens from breaking down and may act as a trapping agent for carcinogenic metabolites.” His current work on the compound is funded by the National Cancer Institute.

He said that purified ellagic acid, used medically to slow blood clotting time, appears to be effective against four classes of chemical carcinogens: polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, nitrosamines, aflatoxin and aromatic amines.

Stoner said experimental evidence indicates that the acid:

- keeps a hydrocarbon found in tobacco smoke and in the atmosphere (benzo[a]pyrene-diol epoxide) from inducing skin and lung cancer in animals and genetic damage in cultured human lung cells.

- inhibits the ability of a nitrosamine found in certain moldy foods (N-nitrosobenzylmethylaniline) from causing esophageal cancer in rats and genetic damage in cultured human esophagus cells.

- reduces aflatoxin-induced genetic damage in cultured human and rat lung tissue. Aflatoxin is a natural toxin found in moldy foods like corn and peanuts.

—reduces the ability of a food additive (acetylaminofluorene), banned by the Food and Drug Administration, to induce liver cancer in rats.

Maas, ARS plant geneticist Gene Galletta and plant physiologist Shioh Y. Wang at the Beltsville lab are working with the North American Strawberry Growers Association to find answers to questions about the acid's presence and levels found in plant parts. They said their research results will be published so that medical and nutritional researchers can analyze the data for future anti-cancer research.

Doris Sanchez (301) 344-2767

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USDA WILL AID TREE FARMERS HIT BY 1989 DROUGHT AND FREEZE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will reimburse eligible persons for a portion of certain commercial tree and tree seedling losses caused by the 1989 drought and freeze, Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard Crowder announced today.

Cost-share payments will be made under the 1989 Tree Assistance Program as authorized by the Disaster Assistance Act of 1989, for trees or seedlings planted any year to produce annual crops for commercial purposes. Payments are limited to 1989 losses due to freeze or drought.

To qualify, the loss on an individual stand must have been greater than 45 percent, after adjustment for normal mortality. Reimbursement will be made for 65 percent of the cost of replanting that portion of the loss which exceeds 45 percent, adjusted for normal mortality.

The CCC will administer the program through county offices of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service with assistance from other USDA agencies. Potential program participants should inquire about eligibility at ASCS county offices.

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789

#

USDA SEEKS COMMENTS ON PLANTING APPROVED ALTERNATIVE NON-PROGRAM CROPS FOR 1990

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking public comment on planting approved alternative non-program crops (ANPCs) on land idled under the 1990 production adjustment program, Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, announced today.

USDA announced Aug. 7 that production of ANPCs on land in conserving use (CU) and acreage conservation reserve (ACR) would not be permitted. "However," Bjerke said, "subsequent interest has prompted CCC to request additional comments." It may be appropriate to permit the planting of ANPCs on 0/92, 50/92 and ACR land which would allow producers greater planting flexibility."

If approved, planting of ANPCs on 0/92 and 50/92 acres would be permitted for the following commodities: guar, sesame, safflower, sunflowers, castor beans, mustard seed, crambe, plantago ovato, flaxseed, triticale, rye, industrial raw material commodities and experimental crops.

Planting on ACR acres would be permitted for guar, sesame, safflower, sunflowers, castor beans, mustard seed, crambe, plantago ovato, flaxseed, triticale, rye or other commodities if the secretary of agriculture determines such production is needed to provide an adequate supply of these commodities, is not likely to increase the cost of the price support program and will not adversely affect farm income.

CCC is seeking comments on the following:

- whether production of ANPCs on CU and ACR acreage should be permitted under one or more of the wheat, feed grain, upland cotton and rice programs;

- identification of the industrial raw material commodities and experimental crops that should be permitted;

- justification of planting various ANPCs;

- production cost and market price associated with the ANPCs;

- the impact that production of the ANPCs may have on the existing production of program and non-program crops;

- the availability of processing facilities and marketing opportunities for the various ANPCs;

- whether a fee should be charged or deficiency payments reduced for the privilege of planting an ANPC and, if so, the amount of the charge or reduction; and

—any other pertinent data on this topic.

Comments must be received by Dec. 11 by the Director, Commodity Analysis Division, USDA/ASCS, Room 3741-S, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013. All comments will be available for public inspection in Room 3741-S of USDA's South Building during regular business hours.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-6787

#

PRATT NAMED DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter announced today that George E. Pratt has been appointed deputy administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Electrification Administration.

As the second-ranking REA official, Pratt will oversee a \$61 billion loan portfolio and program operations for the agency that makes loans and guarantees to approximately 2,000 rural electric and telephone systems nationwide. He will also serve as deputy governor of the Rural Telephone Bank.

For seven years, Pratt was board chairman of an electric distribution cooperative providing service to 25,000 consumers in southern Alabama. In addition, he was on the board of an Alabama generation and transmission power supplier for seven years.

In 1974, he started a van conversion business operating in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. This later expanded into other markets and he became president of Prattco, Inc.

Pratt served 20 years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and 57 air medals. He graduated from Loyola University New Orleans, in 1968 with a degree in business management, and was active in the South Baldwin, Ala., Chamber of Commerce. He owns and operates a small farm in Foley, Ala., raising cattle, hay and pecans.

Ruth Ann Hockett (202) 382-1261

#

UNITED STATES SIGNS SECOND FOOD AID AGREEMENT WITH POLAND

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter announced today that an agreement was signed with Poland Nov. 17, to provide that country with 230,000 metric tons of corn and 10,000 tons of butter. This is the second agreement to be entered into as part of the United States' \$100-million food aid package to Poland.

The corn and butter will be sold and the proceeds used to enhance economic development, with an emphasis on the Polish agricultural sector, according to Yeutter. The generated currencies will accommodate both the provisions of the American Aid to Poland Act and President Bush's new food aid initiative, he said.

The agreement is authorized by Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, for the overseas donations of Commodity Credit Corp. commodities in excess stocks. This program is carried out in cooperation with the Agency for International Development, which serves as an agent of the CCC.

The United States will provide \$108 million in food aid to Poland under a variety of programs. Among the commodities to be provided are corn, butter, meat, vegetable oil, rice and cotton.

"These commodities should help the Poles meet some of their greatest short-term food needs this winter as well as feed needs between now and the next harvest," Yeutter said.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

#

POPULAR SCIENCE HONORS USDA BAR CODE-BEE TECHNOLOGY

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21—A bar code that fits on the back of honey bees, a research technique developed by a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist, has been selected by Popular Science magazine as one of the 100 innovations that are the "best of what's new in 1989."

USDA's Stephen L. Buchmann uses nine bar stripes, glued to the bee's tiny hairs, to monitor individual bees. An electronic bar-code reader at the beehive, which records each bee's exit and entrance, feeds data to a computer for analysis.

Buchmann, an entomologist for USDA's Agricultural Research Service, said the research could yield new clues to selecting healthier, highly productive bees as plant pollinators in the future.

His bar code was selected from "thousands of new products and countless developments in science and technology," according to Herbert Shuldiner, editor of the monthly science magazine. It honored the inventors in a ceremony last week in New York.

"Keeping track of individual bees used to be almost impossible because they all look alike," Buchmann said. "We couldn't easily monitor bees leaving and returning to their hives."

He got the idea of using bar codes from visits to a local supermarket in Tucson, Ariz., where he is based at ARS' Carl Hayden Bee Research Center. In the 1960's, ARS helped pioneer commercial application of these codes for supermarkets.

Buchmann succeeded in lowering the typical number of bars from as many as 55 to nine for keeping tabs on 100 bees at a time. He worked with Sprague Ackley, a researcher with INTERMEC Corp., Lynnwood, Wash., developers of bar codes and scanning equipment.

Hank Becker (301) 344-3547

#

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 9.76 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 9.06 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 8.94 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.88 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$6.03 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$5.64 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$5.43 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next

scheduled price announcement will be made Nov. 28, at 3 p.m. EST, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

#

**THIS WEEK’S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS
UNCHANGED**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22—Producers may repay their 1988 and 1989 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Credit Corporation:

Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per pound

Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per pound

	1989-crop	1988-crop
Table		
White	40.0	40.0
Extra-light Amber.....	37.0	37.0
Light Amber	36.0	36.0
Amber	35.0	34.0
Nontable	33.0	33.0

The levels are unchanged from those announced April 20, 1989.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their 1988 or 1989 honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Contacts: Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7601 8:00 am-4:30 pm EST

John C. Ryan (202) 447-8207 4:30 pm-5:30 pm EST

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VILA SWORN IN AS USDA ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22—Adis Maria Vila was sworn in today by Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter as assistant secretary of agriculture for administration. Vila was nominated by President Bush on Sept. 13, and confirmed by the Senate early today.

Yeutter said, “Adis Vila’s legal knowledge and her expertise in administrative activities will be a great asset to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I am delighted to have her with us.”

As assistant secretary, Vila will direct USDA’s financial management, personnel, civil rights, computer, administrative law and general operational activities.

Since 1987, Vila has served as secretary of the department of administration for the state of Florida, where she administered a statewide personnel system for approximately 100,000 career employees; the retirement systems for state, county, and school district employees; and the group health, life, and disability insurance plans available to all former and active state employees.

Before that, she was director of the Office of Mexico and the Caribbean Basin in the International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce from 1986-1987; special assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs from 1983-1986; and a White House Fellow assigned to the White House Office of Public Liaison from 1982-1983. She practiced law with the firm of Paul and Thomson in Miami from 1979-1982.

A member of the District of Columbia and Florida Bars, Vila received a law degree with honors from the University of Florida, Gainesville, in 1978 and a bachelor of arts in mathematics with distinction from Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla., in 1974.

She earned a master’s degree in international law with high honors from the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, Switzerland. Additional post-graduate work was undertaken at the Hague Academy of International Law, the Human Rights Institute, Strasbourg, France and the Escuela Libre de Derecho, Mexico City.

She is a member of the Council of Foreign Relations.

A naturalized U.S. citizen, Ms. Vila was born in Cuba in 1953 and immigrated to the United States in 1962.

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623

#

YEUTTER NAMES MEMBERS TO BEEF PROMOTION BOARD

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced 29 reappointments and 11 new appointments to the National Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board. All but one will serve three-year terms beginning Dec. 1. The single appointment is for one year to fill a vacancy created by a resignation.

The beef board is composed of 113 members representing 38 states and three regions. The secretary selects the appointees from cattle producers and importers nominated by organizations representing beef, dairy, veal and importer interests.

Reappointed members representing cattle producers, by state and region, are: Alabama—Ronnie B. Holladay; Arkansas—James B. Hill; California—John C. Harris, Gordon R. Rasmussen; Iowa—James A. Mullins, John W. Jensen; Kansas—Virgil R. Huseman, Kenneth E. Knight; Kentucky—Robert S. Vickery; Minnesota—Ralph G. Wishard; Missouri—Glen O. Klippenstein; Montana—Edward J. Lord;

Nebraska—Merlyn E. Carlson, Calvin L. Coulter; New York—Ralph G. Mitzel; North Dakota—Raymond C. Schnell; Ohio—Fred H. Johnson; Oklahoma—John F. Kane, William W. Wooley Jr.; Oregon—Richard J. Cowan; South Dakota—John B. Glaus; Tennessee—Joseph W. Houston; Texas—E. Lucille Sterling, John W. Jones, Robert D. Josserand and Charles E. Payne; Virginia—Roy A. Meek; Wisconsin—Roger D. Biddick; the northwest region (Alaska, Hawaii, and Washington)—Donald W. McClure.

Newly appointed members, by state and region, are: Colorado—Bert L. Hartman; Florida—Derrill S. McAteer; Georgia—Sam M. Payne; Idaho—Linda A. Naugle; Illinois—Grover C. Webb; Indiana—Dale Humphrey; Missouri—Scott A. Kennedy; Pennsylvania—Ralph H. McGregor; Texas—Sergio G. Benavides.

Appointed to represent importers is George H. McNeely III. Charles E. Ball of Texas was appointed to fill the vacancy resulting from a resignation.

Established under the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985, the board has implemented a national program designed to improve the beef industry's position in the marketplace. Approved for continuation in a May 1988 referendum, the program is funded by a mandatory \$1-per-head assessment on all cattle marketed in the United States, and by an

equivalent assessment on imported cattle and beef. Assessments began Oct. 1, 1986.

Members of the initial board were appointed to one, two, and three-year terms in 1986. Each year, approximately one-third of the positions are filled for three-year terms.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors operations of the board.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

#

NEW TEST WILL CERTIFY FRUIT TREES FREE OF TOMATO RINGSPOT VIRUS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22—A test that will allow nurseries to certify fruit tree seedlings free of a virus costing growers millions of dollars a year has been developed by a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist.

Ahmed F. Hadidi's test detects the presence of the virus—called tomato ringspot—100 percent of the time. He said current biological diagnostic methods are “time consuming and sometimes insensitive, and only about 60 percent reliable.”

“From an economic standpoint, the virus is one of the worst problems of tree fruit crops,” said Hadidi, a plant pathologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service. His test matches synthetic copies of the virus's genetic material with the actual virus.

Tomato ringspot causes, among other problems, stem pitting disease of stone fruits like peaches and union necrosis disease of apples. These are among the most common diseases of commercial orchards on the East Coast.

Each year, the virus is responsible for not only millions of dollars in losses of peach, nectarine, prune and apple trees but also millions of dollars in damage to grapes and raspberries.

The name—tomato ringspot—presumably comes from the first crop in which the virus was identified, according to Hadidi. He is based at the National Plant Germplasm Quarantine Laboratory in Beltsville, Md.

“In the past, it has been a difficult and sometimes impossible virus to diagnose in fruit crops,” he explained. “Fruit trees can be infected with the virus for a few years before they exhibit symptoms of the disease, which are then followed by the tree's decline and death. Symptoms vary

considerably from peaches to apples to grapes, which also makes diagnosis difficult.”

Hadidi expects that by the time the test comes to market as a commercial kit, it will be cheap enough for nurseries to use to screen trees for presence of the virus. A patent application is currently being filed for the test.

A number of other countries including Australia, England and France “are interested in using the test as part of their quarantine procedures for imported plants,” he said. “Tomato ringspot virus in fruit crops does not naturally occur in Europe and Australia and they would like to keep it that way.”

At the heart of the test are synthetic copies of the viral genome—its genetic material—which Hadidi created by genetic engineering. An extract of nucleic acids which contains genetic material from a plant suspected of harboring the disease is spotted on a membrane. The membrane is immersed in a solution containing thousands of mirror images of the viral genome that have been radioactively labelled. Then the membrane is washed and exposed to photographic film.

If a dark spot appears on the film, the virus is present—it has matched up with the synthesized mirror-image copies.

“You get a simple black-and-white answer, unlike the test used now which often does not give clear answers,” Hadidi said.

Kim Kaplan (301) 344-3932

#

USDA ANNOUNCES INTENTION TO EXTEND 1985 CCC CORN, SORGHUM LOANS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22—Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced that he intends to offer producers with 1985 crop corn and grain sorghum Farmer-Owned Reserve (FOR) loans that mature after Dec. 31, the opportunity to extend these loans for one-year.

Bjerke said that producers who previously extended these 1985 crop loans for six months will also be able to take advantage of this offer. “This action will ensure that adequate supplies are maintained in the feed grain FOR,” he said.

Bjerke also said that the 1989 crop of feed grains will not be allowed

entry in the FOR since a substantial portion of these crops have already been marketed. Decisions regarding the entry of the 1990 crop will be made prior to the maturity of 1990 crop regular loans.

Producers who take advantage of this option will receive advance storage payments based on an annual rate of 26.5 cents per bushel.

Producers should contact their local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office for details.

Bob Feist (202) 447-6789

#

WHAT'S WHITE, FLUFFY AND SMELLS OF JASMINE?

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24—A long-grain rice that smells of jasmine as it cooks is finding its way from Texas rice fields to specialty and Asian grocery stores in this country.

A U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist, Charles N. Bollich, says the new rice—Jasmine 85—could be a domestic substitute for the 100,000 tons of specialty “aromatic” rices now imported each year at a premium price.

Jasmine 85, when produced under Texas growing conditions, has the flavor and aroma of the premium Basmati rices of India and Pakistan or the Fragrant rices of Thailand, said Bollich, an agronomist for USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

“In fact, a taste panel organized by the Rice Council rated Jasmine 85 as high or higher in aroma, taste and texture as Thai Jasmine rice,” he said.

Cooked grains are soft and tend to cling together just as Thai aromatic rice does. But, the grains are wider and heavier than long grain rices grown in the U.S.

Jasmine 85, developed in the Phillipines, was evaluated by Bollich to see how it would perform in this country. He is based at the ARS Rice Research Station in Beaumont, Texas.

He said the rice does not taste of jasmine, but “smells that way as it cooks.”

One person on the taste panel noted, however, that the rice adds a subtle spicy flavor to dishes. “People who have eaten the dishes I've used Jasmine 85 in immediately ask me what spice I added. But its just the flavor of the Jasmine rice.”

Several growers in Texas are already harvesting Jasmine 85. Bollich expects eventually there could be a market for as much as 30,000 to 50,000 acres of the rice as a premium speciality crop.

Bollich became interested in developing Jasmine 85 several years ago when he was approached by a group of Cambodians living near Houston. They were looking for a domestic, more affordable source of the fragrant rice they prefer over typical American long-grain rice.

“They were unhappy with the high cost of imported aromatics, when they could find it. Regular long-grain rice just didn’t have the texture and aroma of the rice they were used to at home,” he said. “And quarantine restrictions prevent the importation of commercial quantities of rice seed.”

Bollich, ARS biochemist Bill D. Webb and Jim Stansel, resident director of the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center, looked into the possibilities. They obtained a few grams of seed of Jasmine 85, which was developed at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines.

“It looked as if it could be grown in the United States with the desired characteristics,” Bollich said.

Bollich used ARS nurseries to determine the necessary growing conditions. He also increased the amount of seed so enough would be available for commercial seed growers.

Foundation seed is available from the Texas Rice Improvement Association in Beaumont. USDA does not have seed for distribution.

Kim Kaplan (301) 344-3932

#

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Nov. 24, through midnight Thursday, Nov. 30.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1988 and 1989 crop base quality loan rates of 51.80 and 50.00 cents per pound, respectively,

the loan repayment rates for the 1988 and 1989 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1989-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

Based on data for the week ending Nov. 23, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

Northern Europe Price	81.61
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	12.41
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	2.20
Average U.S. location	0.39
Sum of Adjustments	<u>-15.05</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	66.56 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

Northern Europe Price	81.61
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price	<u>-76.52</u>
	5.09
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton	<u>-4.75</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0.34 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Nov. 30.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

#

USDA ANNOUNCES INCREASE OF SUGAR IMPORT QUOTA

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced that the import quota for sugar is increased by 272,915 metric tons (about 300,835 short tons), from 1,986,950 metric tons, raw value, to 2,259,865 metric tons, raw value. The increase is effective Monday, Nov. 27.

Yeutter said the increase puts quota shipments about 13.5 percent higher than with the previous quota. "This change in the level of the quota is necessary to alleviate a tightness in our sugar market caused by unexpectedly low ending stocks and a production shortfall," Yeutter said.

The quota period remains unchanged from Jan. 1, 1989 through Sept. 30, 1990.

The total authorized quota shipments of 2,259,865 metric tons is equal to about 2,491,070 short tons, raw value. Total authorized quota shipments are equal to the sum of the specialty sugar quota (1,815 metric tons), the minimum quota allocations, the quota adjustment amount (increased from 94,117 metric tons to 112,797 metric tons) and the base import quota (increased from 1,860,000 metric tons to 2,115,000 metric tons) minus certain adjustments in the base import quota.

Shipping patterns for quota sugar were also announced. The eight countries currently subject to shipping controls—Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and the Philippines—each are authorized to ship through March 31, 1990, one-third of their allocations, including their increased allocations, above the amounts previously authorized to be shipped by Dec. 31, 1989. After March 31, 1990, these countries may ship the remaining two-thirds of their allocation at any time through Sept. 30, 1990. All other countries are not subject to shipping pattern restrictions.

The new country-by-country quota allocations were announced today by U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills. Panama's allocation, including 23,403 metric tons from the previously announced quota and 7,395 metric tons allocated out of the increase in the quota, is suspended but not reallocated. The new quota allocations by country are as follows (in metric tons, raw value) for the period Jan. 1, 1989 through Sept. 30, 1990:

Chart on next page

Argentina	92,331	Australia	178,221
Barbados	15,031	Belize	23,620
Bolivia	17,178	Brazil	311,350
Canada	23,620	Colombia	51,534
Congo	14,215	Costa Rica	43,900
Dominican Republic	377,915	Ecuador	23,620
El Salvador	62,842.6	Fiji	19,261
Gabon	14,215	Guatemala	103,068
Guyana	25,767	Haiti	14,215
Honduras	41,736.4	India	17,178
Cote D'Ivoire	14,215	Jamaica	23,620
Madagascar	14,215	Malawi	21,376
Mauritius	25,735	Mexico	14,215
Mozambique	27,914	Panama	(30,798)**
Papua New Guinea	14,215	Paraguay	14,215
Peru	88,037	Philippines	339,265
St. Kitts and Nevis	14,215	Swaziland	34,356
Taiwan	25,767	Thailand	30,061
Trinidad-Tobago	15,031	Uruguay	14,215
Zimbabwe	25,767		

** Panama's allocation of 30,798 metric tons is suspended and is not allowed to be shipped at this time. Panama's previous allocation of 30,537 metric tons, raw value, was suspended pursuant to section 565 of H.R. 4637 and subsequently reallocated on Sept. 12, 1989.

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YEUTTER NAMES MEMBERS TO NATIONAL WATERMELON PROMOTION BOARD

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced 28 appointments of watermelon producers and handlers to the new 29-member National Watermelon Promotion Board.

Yeutter selected the appointees from a group of nominees forwarded to him from seven U.S. watermelon-producing districts that held nominating conventions in September.

Yeutter will appoint the 29th board member, representing the public at large, at a later date.

Producers appointed, and the dates their terms expire, are as follows:

District 1 (South Florida, below state highway #50), Dec. 31, 1990, Thomas A. Smith, La Belle, Fla.; Douglas L. Johnson, Immokalee, Fla.;

District 2 (North Florida, above state highway #50), Dec. 31, 1991, Herman H. Sanchez, Cross City, Fla.; Sherod S. Keen, Lake City, Fla.;

District 3 (Alabama and Georgia), Dec. 31, 1991, Ronald J. Everidge, Pinhurst, Ga.; C. Oren Childers, Cordele, Ga.;

District 4 (South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Michigan, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine), Dec. 31, 1992, Donald L. Hales, Salisbury, Md.; Harry J. Thomas Jr., Ulmer, S.C.;

District 5 (Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado and New Mexico), Dec. 31, 1992, Mack A. Garner, Magee, Miss.; Anita McDougal Field, Vincennes, Ind.;

District 6 (Texas), Dec. 31, 1990, Paul H. Kirby, Hempstead; Donald W. Johnson, Knox City;

District 7 (Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Washington and Montana), Dec. 31, 1992, Michael F. Duncan, Phoenix, Ariz; John M. Azevedo, Manteca, Calif.

Handlers appointed, and the dates their terms expire, are:

District 1, Dec. 31, 1990, Joe Marinaro, Fort Pierce, Fla.; William R. Ward Jr., Lakeland, Fla.;

District 2, Dec. 31, 1991, Arnold H. Mack, Pensacola, Fla.; Raymon J. Land, Branford, Fla.;

District 3, Dec. 31, 1991, Charles M. Leger, Cordele, Ga.; William C. Ware, Prattville, Ala.;

District 4, Dec. 31, 1992, Gerald A. Funderburk, Jefferson, S.C.; Vincent C. Savioli, North Reading, Mass.;

District 5, Dec. 31, 1992, Frank E. Day, Waurika, Okla; Robert H. Dietz, Deerfield, Ill.;

District 6, Dec. 31, 1990, Ralph K. Scott, Edinburg, Texas; Todd E. Anderson, Dilley, Texas;

District 7, Dec. 31, 1992, Thomas C. Harrison, Nogales, Ariz.; David O. Marguleas, Palm Desert, Calif.

The board will administer a national watermelon research and promotion plan approved in a February referendum by watermelon producers and handlers. The plan and referendum were authorized by the 1985 Watermelon Research and Promotion Act. Terms of office on the initial board are staggered to provide administrative continuity. Following the initial appointments, members will serve three-year terms of office.

Conducted to improve the position of watermelons in the marketplace, the program will be funded through producer and handler assessments levied on commercial sales of watermelons.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service will monitor operations of the board.

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